



NPower Joins SLATE, Blazing Trail for New Jobs Through IT Apprenticeship

June 21, 2017, St. Louis, Missouri – The St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment (SLATE) is pleased to announce the launch of a new Apprenticeship for Information Technology (IT) Generalists in St. Louis. The program was created through a regional partnership between SLATE, NPower, a national non-profit providing free technology training and job placement assistance, and the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) Office of Apprenticeship.

At a press conference at the Harris-Stowe State University, NPower received a certificate as a Registered Apprenticeship provider from the US DOL, and is now designated to provide training for IT Generalists in St. Louis.

Classes can be completed in only 15-weeks, and combine structured technical education with paid on-the-job internships through participating employers in the NPower Tech Fundamentals program. An estimated 120 individuals are expected to graduate from the program each year.

The partnership created this apprenticeship program to be business-driven, which invites employers to seek and train qualified candidates in specialized skill sets, before offering opportunities to interview for full-time positions. Companies like WWT, the St. Louis American, and KPMG have already expressed interest in offering paid employment for program participants. As part of a pilot program, SLATE recently extended

a paid internship to a young graduate of NPower.

St. Louis is the latest expansion site for NPower, which has offices in seven regions and 11 cities throughout the U.S. and Canada. This IT Apprenticeship is the first of its kind for Missouri, meaning that St. Louis is among the first cities in the nation to offer this type of apprenticeship, following New Jersey, California, and Texas.

According to NPower, St. Louis was selected because of its booming technology industry, as well as the high percentage of unemployed and underemployed young adults in the region.

“As a St. Louis native and an education activist, I am overjoyed by this accomplishment and what it means for the students who have entrusted us to help bridge the gaps they face in skills and opportunities,” said Trina Clark James, NPower Regional Director. “This is one of the few times we get to say to them, ‘you are the first to blaze this cutting-edge trail.’”

This partnership is made possible with the team at SLATE, which will identify qualified individuals and prepare them for the workplace.

“We are excited about our partnership with NPower because it goes hand-in-hand with our mission of providing innovative workforce solutions to benefit both our job seeker and business communities,” said Michael Holmes, Executive Director of SLATE. “This program will help our existing pool of talented citizens to gain vital work experience in pursuit of technical employment, and prepare the next generation of IT professionals, ensuring regional industry competitiveness for years to come. It is my hope that this program will allow more businesses to diversify their talent recruitment, helping those who have previously been excluded from opportunity to become valuable members of the St. Louis business community, inspiring innovation and increasing economic prosperity throughout the region.”

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